



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 147.02 Donald Collection

Date of Records: 1939-1994, bulk 1940s

Size: 1 box

Finding Aid by: revised by Eric W. Boyle (2014)

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Biographical Note: Howard Alexander Donald, M.D. (1915-1994) was a graduate of George Washington University Medical School. He was a medical resident in obstetrics and gynecology when he entered the United States Army as a First Lieutenant in 1939. By 1944, he had achieved the rank of Major and was assigned to the 203rd Hospital Ship *Complement* in Charleston, SC. He was subsequently assigned to the United States Army Hospital Ship *Algonquin*. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following his military service, Dr. Donald completed his residency at Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, D.C. and later served as Chief of Staff and on the Executive Board.

Series/Scope and Content Note: The Donald Collection was donated to the National Museum of Health and Medicine in 2007 by Douglas Donald, Dr. Donald's son. The collection includes photographs and correspondence related to the US Army service of Dr. Donald, primarily during the period when he was commanding officer of the US Army Hospital Ship *Algonquin*, as well as his activities in converting commercial ships to hospital ships in World War 2. Includes photographs taken by Donald of ports in Italy, Tunisia, and US as well as on board the *Algonquin*. Additional rare items of note include dinner menus and activities for patients being transported.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001: Hospital Ships, General

- Newspaper articles by Ernie Pyle
- Seating capacities on US Army transport messes



- Merchant marine pay scale

00002: Hospital Ships, Standards and Specifications

- History of hospital ships and transports
- Specification for hospital areas on Army transports
- Correspondence related to conversion of hospital ships
- Minimum standards for hospital ships and troop transports

00003: Instructions for Transport Surgeons

- Patient evacuation to lifeboats
- Debarkation of patients (equipment and personnel needed)
- Duties and responsibilities of the Office of Medical Transport Inspector
- Instructions for Transport Surgeons

00004: Hospital Ships' Carrying Capacity and Classification

- Data on 24 ships
- Patient capacities and classifications
- Classification of vessels—military personnel authorized

00005: USHS *Algonquin*

- Commissioning proclamation
- Photo postcards
- Menus and newsletters from the ship publication, *The Barnacle*
- Report of Voyage
- Welcome letter
- Movie schedules
- Personnel assignments
- Patient's comment sheet
- Ship regulations
- Medical plan and plan for evacuation of sick and wounded
- Poem: "Ship of Mercy," by Sgt. John T. Barto
- Manuscript: "The Army Hospital Ship," by Cpt. Jacob A. Goodhart

00006: US Hospital Ship *Chateau Thierry*

- Newspaper articles about the newly-commissioned ship

00007: US Hospital Ship *Comfort*



- Newspaper articles about kamikaze attack

00008: US Hospital Ship *Acadia*

- Photo postcard
- Newspaper articles about ship's arrival in America

00009: Orders and Awards

- Dr. Donald's appointment as 1st Lieutenant
- Promotions to Captain, Major, Lt. Colonel
- Assignments to Camp Upton, the 203rd Hospital Ship *Complement*, and the *Algonquin*
- Letter of commendation from Col. Zartarian, Mason General Hospital, NY
- Authorization to wear campaign stars
- "Thanks of a grateful nation" signed by President Harry Truman

00010: Hospital Ships, Additional General Information

- Binder including information about the Red Cross, laundry operations, supply catalog, *Algonquin*, *Chateau Thierry*, and the *Thistle*

00011: Miscellaneous

- Newspapers and articles including front page of *Aruba Post*, material on hospital trains, and *Port News*

00012: Personal Papers—Civilian Life

- The *Lutheran* magazine, 1945
- Columbia Hospital News reporting on Donald being elected to Chief of Staff
- Form from the Directory of Medical Specialists
- Obituary and hospital notice of his death

00013: Photographs: 1st Lieutenant Howard A. Donald, age 29

00014: Photographs: USHS *Shamrock* (interior) (13 images)

00015: Photographs: USHS *Algonquin* at New Orleans Port of Embarkation (Jan. 31, 1944) (13 images)

00016: Photographs: USHS *Algonquin*, Chas. Port of Embarkation (no date) (16 images)

00017: Photographs: Major Howard A. Donald, M.D., age 29

00018: Photographs: USHS *Shamrock* (exterior) (11 images)

00019: Photographs: Marseilles and Repat. Area (ca. 150 images on the subjects listed below)



- Leghorn and Pisa
- Southern France
- Ship's company and ship scenes
- Miscellaneous ports